

The Mafia 781

Chapter 781 Reclaiming the Altar and Awakening the Capital

A week after Vicente's group arrived in Grandis, the local forces had completely reclaimed an area of about 60 kilometers radius, with the capital in the center of the area.",

Vicente, Torne, and Lauren had split up around the kingdom's capital on the second day of their actions, each taking a group of men from the capital to occupy the conquered land.

With the powers of 3 Paragons and the high killing capacity of Vicente and Lauren, rapidly they eliminated over 12,000 creatures that were near the capital to put pressure on the city.

In just six days, Vicente built over 500 kilometers of fencing and 100 observation posts scattered throughout this vast territory.

He and his group regained the port area near the kingdom's capital, but also reached the area where the order's secret altar was located in that state.

Earlier, Vicente had found this place and let Rory use it for a while to build his family's bases in Diamond Province. That post had been lost in the dire situation the kingdom had recently found itself in, and the men from that post had moved to other cities in the kingdom or even died.

But now that Vicente had reclaimed the area where that post had stood, less than 50 kilometers from the capital, a new opportunity had opened up for the remaining population of Grandis!

Before returning to Grandis on the seventh afternoon since his return to the kingdom, Vicente recovered the altar of the order and left there the magical gems he had collected in the temple of Grandis, as well as some men of his family.

...

Back in the capital, Vicente entered the city again after six days away, and found a much happier and more hopeful city than the one he had left seven days ago.

There were fewer soldiers in the city, since most of the men of the Royal Army were now in the security area of the Grandis. On the other hand, more people were leaving the local exits, some returning to their jobs in the nearby mines and plantations, others were busy repairing the local harbor.

With more people returning to their pre-disaster routines, the mood in the city was much better, with more negotiations taking place and looks of hope on the faces of the hundreds of thousands of residents.

Vicente made his way to the Blacksmith Association building as he entered the city, figuring that all the materials he needed to develop armor and weapons were already gathered for him there.

Along the path leading to the building in the center of the city, King Seidel and Lina joined him, forming a small group.

"Vicente, we've already left all the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade materials at the association's headquarters. We also have men in place to carry the artifacts you develop for our men through the city's security area." The king reported as soon as he had greeted and thanked Vicente for his recent actions.

"This is good. You should prepare a group of young people and their families to go and awaken their powers at the nearby altar of the order.

My men are already at that post to receive those interested, and the way there is safe." Vicente told the king and Lina.

The men he left at the post were mostly the former members of the Congregation of Revelation from the local temple, who would now serve the Cataclysm Order.

Some warriors from the old temple of Grandis worked as guards in the watchtowers that Vicente had built around this extensive area, with only the administrative staff at the old secret altar.

"Oh? That's good. I'll immediately organize a group of young people to go to that altar."

"After I finish making weapons and armor for the local forces, I'll repair the province's railroads. That will be the way to reclaim the lost cities of the province and eliminate the monsters in the area."

Not everything in a province was essential to the society that owned it. Many areas of the provinces used to be the territory of magical beasts, or even roads, unexplored mountains, and so on.

The main infrastructure for humans was largely around cities and villages, about 20% of a territory like Diamond Province.

Instead of trying to restore everything, Vicente wanted to restore that 20% before thinking about more!

The king understood Vicente's plans and left soon after, leaving the young Fuller and Lina alone as they continued to walk through downtown.

"Are you going to Metal City after this?" Lina asked him.

"Hmm, I'm going to restore the province's railroads and then go through Snow Province and help the major cities in the area. Then I'll go to Metal City to see Nina again." Vicente replied as he entered the Blacksmiths' Association.

"I will go with you to the Snow Province and then return to the capital. My family needs me, and I feel you need to pay more attention to Nova than anyone else when you return."

Lina, Layla and Sarah were aware of their position towards him, as well as not getting in his way when he was with one or the other. All three had been through major crises with him over the last few years, but had been by his side most of the time, their needs being met from time to time.

Nova had gone years with no attention from Vicente. It was only fair that they give him and her some space as soon as he returned to Metal City.

"All right."

He smiled at the princess, pleased with his women's behavior. Sarah would arrive in Metal City along with the rest of the group that had left for that city at that time. Meanwhile, Layla had already told Vice that she would do more or less the same as Lina had just told him.

That way, he wouldn't have to worry about his women's conflicts of interest and would soon start producing 4th and 5th grade artifacts, while Lina would return to her activities in the capital.

Chapter 782 Back in Metal City

While Vicente turned his attention to producing artifacts in Grandis, Rory and the others had crossed the entire Seidel Kingdom and arrived in Metal City.",

That morning, Rory, Sarah, Casey, Onyx, and the Dark Path woman of the 5th stage arrived near the city Vicente had founded five years earlier.

At the sight of the metal jungle that had sprung up in this area, surrounded by mountains, the group that had last passed through over 2 years ago couldn't help but smile to see the place today.

The Metal City was standing and much larger than before, having passed the 400,000 mark of people living there, with all the land that could be used for construction having been used.

Trains could be seen leaving the city, heading into the interior of Scott Province, a grand sign, an indication at least some of what they had prepared before they left had held.

However much their plans for Diamond Province had gone wrong, the situation in Scott Province was more or less what they wanted.

Of course, they didn't want parts of the province's border and cities far away from the core of the territory to fall to the monsters. But given the special circumstances of this area, the situation in the Metal City and the Scott Province was the best they could hope for.

Rory told the group. "We're going to enter the city and see how things are going. Then we'll split up and head for Martell Village and Millfall."

From what they had heard in their quick passage through Grandis, the village and the former Fuller family seat were currently two of the five largest cities in the kingdom.

The village had left its former status behind and had grown considerably in the past two years, becoming a city of over 200,000 inhabitants. As for Millfall, it currently had 350,000 inhabitants, ranking second among the remaining cities in the province.

Since each member of the group had the power of a Low-level Paragon, they were already considering splitting up to protect each of these remaining areas of the province.

With this in mind, the group made their way to the entrance of the Metal City, quickly gaining access when they were recognized by the guards on the outskirts of the city.

As soon as they entered the area of the city where even peak 4th stage monsters would have trouble approaching, they felt the auras of the strongest ones there.

Rory noticed the cultivation of Bart, Eve, Nova, Prische, and other Earth and Sky Sovereigns, and couldn't help but feel relief when he realized his old companions and allies were indeed fine.

As he and his group were watched with admiration, respect, and hope by the local men, they made their way to the center of the city.

The Metal City, unlike Dresbert and other surviving areas that had spun out of control amid the crisis, was not at all disorganized. The place had taken in people amid the crisis, but not only that, because it was connected to other cities, it didn't have to take in everyone.

Many of the people interested in living in Metal City were currently living in Millfall or Martell Village, good places to get the opportunity to migrate to Metal City.

As a result, the streets and squares of the city were not filled with camps and tents housing refugees from the disaster. On the contrary, the place was very well organized and clean, with people moving around the city on beasts, carriages, or on the sidewalks as if the crisis hadn't happened.

Judging by the clothing of some locals and the number of services available, the group quickly realized that the nobles of the province had taken over this city on a large scale.

But that was to be expected. After all, the rich and noble of the province had been the first to invest in this place after Vicente's presentation.

Not bothered by this reality, Rory and his companions soon arrived at the Fuller family's headquarters, where only Bart and Eve were present now.

Nova was working at the city's army post, while Nina was at the branch of the Seidel Magic College, built in Metal City six months ago to house the students and teachers who had left the capital.

Noticing Rory, Casey and Sarah's mental fluctuation, Eve quickly appeared in front of the large mansion in the center of the city.

"Rory?" she exclaimed at the sight of the red-haired young man, unable to contain the smile on her face at the sight of her old friends.

"We're back in the kingdom, Eve. Vicente is in the capital with the others, but he'll be here soon." Rory went straight to the most important point, so that the beautiful blonde woman who came running up to them wouldn't worry about things she shouldn't have.

Eve understood, but asked anyway. "How are they? Did they accomplish their goals? Did they get all their pentagrams without problems?"

"We had some problems, but we came back in one piece and with all our goals accomplished." Casey sighed as he answered, seeing the large basilisk approaching them.

"What about Nina and the others?" Rory looked into Eve's clear eyes. "How are they?"

"Well, as well as possible. We're all living under stress, but fortunately the worst of the crisis has only recently reached us. Besides, we're all stronger and more hopeful about Vicente's return." She tried to be optimistic, despite the many headaches she has had in recent months.

"How is the situation in the city and the province? We're thinking of splitting up to help the area while Vicente is not returning." Sarah asked Eve.

"The city is fine, as you can see. The problem is the province. We've lost practically the entire north and east coast of the territory to the monsters. Saltstar City was destroyed, along with practically every sea town we had.

Only Ironcrest has survived so far. But that place is in a terrible situation. We might lose it at any moment!"

Hearing this, the five of them looked at each other and realized that they had to act quickly regarding Ironcrest.

Chapter 783 Reunion with Nina

"If that's the case, Sarah and Erin, I want you to travel to Ironcrest immediately. Secure the city and stay there until Vicente returns. If he returns to the province, we'll make sure he goes there to resolve the situation." Rory ordered the two women.",

Sarah and the Dark Path magician looked at each other and, as soon as they had greeted Eve and Bart again, they left as quickly as they had arrived in Metal City.

"Casey, you and Bart are going to Millfall later. If you have anything to take care of there, do it by nightfall. As for Onyx, you'll stay in Metal City when I go to Martell Village tomorrow."

"All right." The large 5th-stage crow agreed, while Bart studied the bird beside him, especially the artifacts in Onyx's beak, feathers, and talons.

He obviously wanted his master to give him something like that!

"Senior Onyx, would you tell me about your experiences in the north?" Bart asked as he watched the black bird fly to the top of the Fuller family mansion.

Meanwhile, Casey left, leaving Rory and Eve alone.

The two walked slowly toward the college building, talking about what seemed to be the most important thing at the moment.

"Vicente got Lauren back, did you know that?" Rory commented to Eve, while he had a deep look on his face.

"Is her situation bad?" Eve realized that this was not the best.

"Yes, she doesn't remember who she was. Our Lauren has been living all these years under the identity of an old acquaintance of ours, Miss Death."

"What?" Eve's eyes widened as she brought a hand to her mouth, unbelieving that Lauren had acted so close to them on so many occasions.

"Yeah, it's hard to believe, but it's the truth. And that's why she's become such a cold, hard to get along with, arrogant and unreliable woman. I don't know if she'll ever recover, so we'd better prepare Nina. The older sister she remembers may not exist anymore." Rory said with difficulty, his heart trembling with regret for the family, especially for Nina.

"That's a shame. But Nina is more mature and stronger than you think, Rory. She's grown up a lot over the years." Eve said confidently. "Last night she advanced her cultivation to the 3rd stage, and even before that she was taking on more and more responsibility in the family.

Our men trust her a lot, especially those who have fought alongside her. She is highly respected and considered a genuine leader. They don't do it for me, for you, or for Vicente. They truly respect their young lady for who she has proven herself to be.

I know she'll be sad about Lauren's situation, but she'll get over it."

"Really? They say Dark Path magicians grow up fast... I didn't know that was so true."

"Don't believe everything they say about Dark Path magicians. After all, Nina is a sweet person, and she's even sweeter since she awakened her powers." Eve said as she pulled up in front of the college building, having already signaled one of the family's men to alert Nina about their presence there.

As they talked about Nina, five minutes passed and soon the girl appeared, coming towards them while a young man with brown hair stood beside her, hand in hand with her.

Eve saw this and said. "I had almost forgotten. Vicente was right. Nina and Killian were really going to be more than just friends in the end."

"That..." Rory's eyes widened as he looked at the blonde next to him.

"Don't worry, we've all made the situation clear to both of them, and they're both committed to carrying out Vicente's intentions. They're just waiting for him to come back so they can get married."

Rory opened her mouth in surprise, not expecting to see that girl again when she was already engaged to a man!

"Vicente won't be happy to hear that." He muttered to Eve.

"I know. But there's nothing we can do about it. It's out of our hands." She laughed bitterly until the two of them finally stopped in front of her and Rory.

"Rory, where's my brother? Have you finally finished your hunt?" Nina asked with interest, smiling as she imagined what her brother was like, the stories he could tell her, and so much more.

"Vicente is in Grandis, dealing with the problems of the capital." Rory said, the young Killian watching him intently, a serious look on his youthful face.

"He should be here in a few weeks, Nina. Next to him is Lauren. We managed to get your sister back on our side."

"Is that true?" A broad smile appeared on Nina's face.

Nina was still wearing the cloth mask her brother had recommended, something capable of hiding her Magic Gem. But she hadn't worn the metal mask since she arrived in Metal City a few months ago.

In Grandis, she had followed all of her brother's recommendations. But in Metal City, a place controlled by her family, she had only worn the cloth mask on her face.

As such, Rory and Eve saw the happiness on her face, as this type of mask could reflect the emotions of its wearer.

"Yes, but you should be careful with her return. Don't get too excited. The Lauren we brought back is not the same one you saw last time, Nina." Rory preferred to be direct with her rather than let the young woman in front of him raise false expectations.

"Lauren has been through more and more and doesn't remember her life before her awakening. She became a weapon for Nixlas' Shadows, a cold and negative woman, the kind who makes comments that are hard to hear.

If you meet her again, be careful and don't expect her to treat you the way she used to. Maybe she will change in time, but for now, it's best to control your expectations and be realistic."

Nina heard this, but she wasn't disappointed, because she had already imagined that something like this would happen, because her brother had prepared her for it before he left.

Vicente had told her many times that Lauren had been taken by bad people who would try to destroy the sister they remembered. He and Nina should do their best to help Lauren in the future, but they shouldn't be naive.

That's why the young woman next to Killian didn't get angry when she heard Rory's recommendations. She had a disappointed look on her face, but she knew that getting angry with Rory and the others wouldn't change anything.

"I understand... It's a shame, but it's better that she's with us than where she was."

Chapter 784 Sea of Possibilities?

"But did he manage to get our revenge on that sect?" Nina asked as she let go of Killian's hand, clenching her fists and wishing the worst for Nixlas' Shadows.",

"Yes, Vicente wiped out that sect," Rory said. "Didn't you know? We sent some beasts from that sect to help the Seidel Kingdom. Didn't they come here?"

"Beasts? From the Dark Path?" Eve asked, frowning. "We have heard of a few incidents of Dark Path beasts acting strangely in the last five months or so, resulting in human victories or even people claiming to have been rescued by beasts. But we have approached none of them out of fear."

"As expected... Vicente imagined this could happen." Rory sighed before continuing to answer Nina's question. "Anyway, that sect no longer exists. Apart from Lauren, the only ones left are the beasts we sent to the kingdom."

"And how is big sister Lauren? What level is she at?" Nina asked curiously, even more relieved to know that her family's enemies were all dead.

"She's a Low-level Paragon now. Her power is the Book of Death. You may have heard of her. She's also known by the nickname Miss Death." Rory said.

"Oh?" Nina's eyes widened as she remembered the news about this magician she had read about several times in her childhood.

"She's fine as far as that goes. Vicente has been taking care of her, so we have to be hopeful and patient. Just be ready to see her again, Nina. They'll be here with you in a few weeks."

"I will be. Don't worry, I know what I have to do." Nina said confidently as they walked out of the college.

"Besides, I have some excellent resources to pass on to the family. Our group collected a lot of stuff while traveling around the continent, so it's time for the family alchemists to get to work." Rory said to Eve and Nina as he handed a spatial ring to the blonde woman next to him.

Sensing what was inside it, Eve stopped and opened her mouth in shock. "All this?"

"The North is dangerous, but because of that, it has many opportunities. This ring contains the organs of more than a dozen superior vampires. Unfortunately, we couldn't preserve their blood, otherwise we could have guaranteed important and rapid progress for the family members.

In any case, we have enough for everyone in the family to benefit. Take advantage of these resources, Vicente will bring more in the future, so we don't have to skimp." Rory delivered the good news and went over what he had been told to do when he met Eve.

"There are so many things here... How many monsters have you fought?" Nina asked after checking the ring.

"A few tens of thousands. We've also killed a lot of monsters in the cities we've passed through. There are also a lot of artifacts and financial resources that we have collected from order posts and abandoned cities.

Sigh! The crisis is a sea of opportunity." Rory replied with a complicated look, a mixture of satisfaction and regret.

There was enough in that 5th grade spatial ring to enrich a state!

But it had only come into his family's possession because of the drastic situation the Polaris Realm was currently in!

The three walking beside him clearly understood where these riches came from, and they remained silent as they walked through the city.

"What was the capital like before you left? I haven't heard from my family in weeks." Killian looked at Rory expectantly.

"They're fine. We avoided the worst, and now I imagine Vicente has retaken a lot of territory around Grandis. He'll soon have to retake the railroad lines in Diamond Province before he gets here."

"What are your plans now?" Nina asked the red-haired man beside her.

"The Metal City seems safe. I'll leave Onyx here to protect it, and I'll head to Martell Village to defend the territory we still own." He said as he thought of his mother, whose aura he had already felt in this city and whom he wanted to talk to later.

"I see... I was thinking of hunting my next pentagram now that I've moved on, but I think I'll wait for my brother to return. Or do you think it would be better if I surprised him now with my three pentagrams?"

"Wait for him. It'll be better that way." Rory smiled at her as he walked on alongside Nina, Killian, and Eve.

They would make their way to the army post to talk to Nova, but when they got there, they would discover that she was leading a group of soldiers out of the city.

As good as the local defenses were, the army and the Fuller family had to constantly eliminate creatures that got too close to the city.

With that, Rory would finish talking to Nina and Eve about his plans and what should happen in the meantime while Vicente was away, before he left to be reunited with his mother.

Heidi was doing very well in the Metal City, having used the opportunities she had as Rory's mother to become a Low-

level Mage.

No longer exploiting the sex trade, she was now an important political member of the Metal City government.

As an ex-prostitute and ex-pimp, Heidi knew how to deal with nobles, rulers, and ordinary people, and had earned herself a prestigious place in the city.

When she saw her only son again, the woman was naturally thrilled and relieved, and then devoted the rest of the day to listening to the young redhead's stories.

That was the rest of Rory's day in Metal City until he rested and left early the next day with Bart and Casey for Millfall and Martell Village.

Using the local trains, they would arrive at their new guard posts in just a few hours!

...

Meanwhile, Vicente had finished developing the artifacts for the men in the capital to use in defending the territory already reclaimed by young Fuller's actions.

With that done, and his Awakening Altar helping people awaken their powers for the third day in a row, it was time for Vicente to get on with repairing the railway line in the province before leaving for Nina!

Chapter 785 Leaving the Capital

After finishing his business in the capital, having created 600 firearms, 150,000 bullets for the four types of weapons he created, and 50 pieces of armor, 10 of them of the 5th stage and the rest of the 4th stage, Vicente left Grandis.",

The local forces were well armed and protected according to the resources available in this area of the continent. But as good as these numbers weren't, they should be enough for the current threat level in this area of the Polaris Realm.

Vicente, Lauren, Layla and Lina left the capital of Seidel Kingdom, having just said goodbye to the king, Jasmine and the others, as well as Newton, who stayed behind to take care of local affairs.

While he and his companions would continue their journey through Diamond Province, then Snow Province, the local forces would have plenty to do.

It was their plan to reclaim as much territory as possible in the coming weeks, rescue people trapped in places surrounded by monsters, and get back to mining and farming.

Of course, they would also have to hold on to what Vicente had conquered in the last few days, which was not so difficult now that they were armed and prepared.

Besides that, their future plans that are further out would solely rely on Vicente.

In the meantime, the young man planned to take care of his railroads and get the network he had built up before up and running again on a large scale. This could be his greatest weapon to help the human resistance against monsters!

...

After leaving the kingdom's capital, Vicente and his companions soon arrived at their first stop, where the railroad connecting the capital to Saltstar City was destroyed at its first point.

In this place of grassy fields and hills in the north of the province, Vicente spotted from his position in the sky an area of many craters where the tracks were distorted, crumpled, or even destroyed, leaving no trace behind.

"From what I've heard from my family, there are devastated areas like this all around the railroads in the province. The monsters realized our trains would be a problem for them once they started attacking our forces. They attacked the railroads with all their might." Lina commented as her group slowed their speed and altitude.

"That must be why the provincial groups have simply abandoned Vicente's trains in the last few weeks." Layla muttered.

"Yes, that's the case." Lina shook her head in agreement. "The monsters have been very determined. First, they destroyed the railroads that connected the richest cities in the province. By attacking different points along the track of each line, they basically made it impossible to repair those lines.

Luckily for some of our friends in Metal City, the monsters destroyed the Saltstar City-Grandis railroad last. But that line was destroyed in at least a dozen different places, almost at the same time that Saltstar City was extinguished."

"That's a shame. But fortunately, I'll be able to rebuild those destroyed points quickly." Vicente looked at the area where the craters were, along 3 kilometers from where the tracks should have been at that point.

"You three want to help me deal with these monsters nearby?" Vicente looked at them as he pointed to the 200 monsters he had just sensed guarding the area.

As much as the monsters had destroyed several points of Vicente's train tracks, it had been very costly for them, as they had sacrificed dozens of 4th-stage monsters and even a few 5th-stage individuals.

If the Seidel Kingdom's magicians could repair these damaged areas after sacrificing all the monsters, it would be terrible for these creatures. As a result, groups like the 200 or so monsters in this area guarded places like this to prevent human repairs.

Lina and Layla agreed when they heard Vicente's suggestion, with Lauren moving first without saying anything.

Lina and Layla had become very strong and had their 5th stage armor, which they couldn't help but want to use on the battlefield, just like children wanting to use their favorite toy.

With Vicente and Lauren there, they would never have to fight, so the only way for them to act was if he gave them the opportunity!

As soon as they landed in the middle of the destroyed area, Lina and Layla teamed up to fight the nearby 4th stage monsters, with the speedster taking on the group in the south and the psychic magician taking on the monsters in the north.

Layla was so fast that she had reached the first enemy in the first breath of time since Vicente set foot on the ground and had her arm through the switch of the 4th stage goblin.

Lina wasn't that fast, but she moved quickly against her opponents, using her mana to strengthen her body while sensing what her enemies were going to do and adjusting her blows and movements accordingly.

Predicting an opponent's future gestures was an extremely powerful skill. It made its user difficult to hit, but very efficient in his offensive movements.

By not missing blows, avoiding attacks that would cost mana, and using the right power in each move, a magician like Lina could perform even more impressive feats than a speedster like Layla.

When Layla had already killed 25 opponents, Lina took down her 19th, even though her speed was much slower than her teammate and harem sister's.

While the two of them acted, killing left and right, Lauren had already finished when Vicente manipulated his magnetic powers, trying not to scare the monsters in the area while his group acted.

He used the minerals in the ground and the damaged rails to create new rails, while giving his special properties to the old ones near him, activating their repelling effects.

Considering the small 3-kilometer stretch of damaged or destroyed rails, Vicente would have repaired that terrain in just 10 minutes, including closing the craters in the area with earth elemental spells.

When these two had finished their carnage, Vicente finished his work, leaving behind tracks that could even withstand the attacks of High-level 5th-stage beings!

Chapter 786 Advancing in the Diamond and Snow Provinces

Over the course of the next week, Vicente and his three companions would spend most of their time traveling through the Diamond Province, where the capital of the kingdom was located.",

They would basically focus their time on repairing areas like this first stop, followed by their departure from the kingdom's capital.

At least 40 points like the one above, destroyed places with monsters watching nearby, were scattered throughout the province, preventing the best movement and communication of the isolated communities in the area.

Even though the province was badly destroyed and occupied by monsters, not all of the remaining magicians were in Grandis. As far as the royal family knew, groups of a few hundred or even a few thousand humans were hiding in the area now under monster control.

Traveling by wagon or even beast was impossible for 90% of the population in these areas today. The only way for them to communicate or even move people and resources was through Vicente's trains.

This young man's trains in the Diamond Province sat idle at the Grandis Station, waiting for the moment to move again and bring hope to the frightened hearts of the kingdom's inhabitants.

But with Vicente's actions, which within a week would completely restore the 40 points of destruction in the province and make the entire network in the area take on 5th grade characteristics, hope was about to return to the cities of the area!

After sending a raven to the capital with a message from him, Vicente, along with Layla and Lina, headed to Snow Province, where he planned to repeat his acts and complete the restoration of the Grandis & Saltstar City railroad!

...

On the tenth day after Vicente's departure, trains left Grandis Station, and groups of men armed with 4th grade firearms carried out their plans.

Their goal was to test Vicente's newly restored railroad lines and to contact the isolated communities of the province.

The initial goal was to travel to the province's old cities while they waited for the next signal from Vicente, showing the line connecting the capital to Snow Province, and Scott Province was ready for use.

In the meantime, they could rescue fellow humans and, just as importantly, regain access to the cities, which were once very important because of their richness in minerals, resources, etc.

As Vicente had seen on his journey, many places had been abandoned to their prey or even lost their owners, killed by the disaster.

This was the case with practically every human city that had been abandoned or even had a significantly reduced population. These were places where many resources were left behind, things that, if collected and used by magicians, could benefit the people resisting the monsters!

Thus, King Seidel and Vicente's men would begin their exploration of the area amid his and his three companions' actions in Snow Province!

...

Three days after arriving in Snow Province, Vicente, Lauren, Lina, and Layla had already repaired almost all the damaged railroad tracks in the territory.

Due to the more southern location of Snow Province within the kingdom, as well as the greater influence of the Fuller family and their projects there, this place had resisted the monsters better than the main province of the kingdom.

Vicente and his companions had only had to visit 23 places of destruction in the path of the railroad tracks in the last few days, and had practically completed their journey of reconstruction before their next step.

But tonight they stopped in one of the resistant cities in the Snow area, where Lina and Layla planned to stay after Vicente left for Scott Province with Lauren.

Layla intended to stay in the area longer to represent Vicente's interests. As for Lina, she intended to return to the capital after she had helped bring stability to the area and the trains began to leave for Grandis.

But first, the two women wanted to say goodbye to Vicente tonight!

Having taken advantage of Vicente's position in the Blacksmiths' Association, they were staying with him in a section of the Blacksmiths' Association building where high-

ranking elders could live.

...

While Lauren was cultivating in the main cultivation room of the local Blacksmith Association, Vicente was in a hot tub next to Lina and Layla, they all naked, smiling as they drank with him.

Despite the problems, after the group's recent victories, the information that their relatives were still alive, and the magnificent prospects for growth, they had enough to smile about and enjoy moments like this.

Vicente had spent the last few hours with his two women, taking care of their needs separately, of course. Neither of Vicente's women enjoyed sharing passionate moments. He always devoted his time to taking care of them one by one, as he had done tonight.

After he finished tending to Layla's carnal desires, the three of them had dinner together before coming to this bathtub in the association's principal residence.

Vicente said to them. "In a year, I imagine that the defenses of the kingdom and a territory large enough for humanity to manage against the monsters will be secure under my domains. At that time, I will move to Grandis to defend the kingdom from there. From then on, we can live together."

Layla and Lina looked at him silently. They wanted to live with him and experience his touch on a daily basis.

Now wasn't possible, because he had a lot of work to do in the province. But one day, even amid the disaster, they wanted to live with him, even for a short time.

They knew they wouldn't be able to join him on his next trip north, so this might be their only chance to live with him during the disaster.

"How long do you plan to stay?" Layla asked with a serious look on her face.

"I don't know. It depends on the monsters and the vampires. I imagine the strongest vampires will come after me as soon as they leave their seclusion. I'll have to go far away so as not to bring trouble to the kingdom."

"I will help you know the right time to leave." Lina said with determination to help her man, but also to enjoy as much time with him as possible until then.

Vicente smiled at her and said to both of them. "But don't worry yet. I think I can stay here for at least five years. Maybe even longer. Then we'll have plenty of time to prepare for my departure. I hope I'll be able to leave Lauren in a position to protect the kingdom and her family by then."

Chapter 787 Return to Scott Province!

After the conversation in the bathtub between Vicente, Layla and Lina, two days passed for their group as they continued on to the largest city in Snow Province.",

Vicente rested from his days of action over the past few weeks in the two provinces he had served, while taking the opportunity to help this city build more solid defenses.

But he had no intention of staying long, and this would be his last night there before he left for Scott Province the next morning.

Lauren meditated, while Layla and Lina escorted Vicente around the city.

...

On Vicente's last night in the capital of Snow Province, a grand dinner celebrating his return and his appointment as leader of the Blacksmiths' Association of Polaris Realm was being held in the association building!

All the remaining local leaders and the city's blacksmiths were gathered with Vicente in the grand ballroom of the association building, where a large banquet with many drinks was being served.

The local leaders had already taken turns speaking words of congratulations and thanks for Vicente's heroic deeds for the city and the kingdom, while he listened beside his two women.

When everyone had finished speaking, Vicente thanked them again, this time rising from his seat and taking the stage.

"Thank you for everyone's words and gestures. It's gratifying to share a moment like this with the warriors of the kingdom, even amid disaster.

It makes me feel there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. Our hard work and perseverance is not in vain!" He spoke with unwavering confidence, his voice resonating deeply within the hearts of everyone present.

"Let us remain steadfast, warriors of the kingdom! No matter how difficult our situation, no matter how difficult the damn vampires are, we will resist and fight back. One day... One day we'll take back these lands!"

The people there rose from their seats and shouted to support Vicente's words, their eyes shining as they saw the strongest person in the area so confident in fighting the monsters.

Many of them were afraid for their lives, cowards, so to speak. They would hardly have a heroic attitude when fighting on the battlefield. But even these men and women couldn't help but feel a strong desire to leave this ballroom and go to the battlefield to face the monsters.

Their desire seemed to burn in their hearts, and the mana in their bodies vibrated energetically, as if they were in the greatest moment of their lives.

"This man is the future of the magical community." Said an old Sovereign with clenched fists, feeling something he hadn't felt in centuries. "This is a man who can lead battalions on suicide missions. It would be an honor to fight under his command!"

"Yes, Venerable Vicente Fuller is a prominent leader, even though he is so young. Fighting alongside him would be worth the effort of a lifetime!"

"Venerable Fuller will still kill Demien Bloodthorne. Listen to what this old man is saying. We are witnessing the birth of the new monarch of the Polaris Realm!"

Several people of various ages spoke favorably of Vicente, feeling excited, confident, and eager to see the future unfold.

Layla and Lina clapped along with the others at their men's words, seeing in Vicente all the hope these people were crying out for in his words.

The two couldn't help but feel proud of him, to have fought and hunted pentagrams at his side and to be at his disposal to support and relax him.

"Sigh! Time has passed so quickly. I still remember when we were in Millfall," Layla commented to Lina as Vicente smiled and greeted several local Sovereigns.

"Look on the bright side, you were at his side much longer than I was," Lina said with a bitter smile.

"Not as long as I would have liked." Layla muttered, regretting it had taken her so long to start a relationship with him.

"Let's enjoy it while we can. Vicente's future is much longer and more fantastic than 'ordinary' people like us can imagine. If one of us is lucky, we might be able to conceive his children with us before he leaves."

Lina listened to Layla in silence and agreed wholeheartedly.

It might take a long time for Vicente to disappear from the continent, but just like the Magus, who disappeared when they reached this stage of cultivation, they assumed the same would happen to him!

'How much time do we have?' The princess closed her eyes and sighed.

...

After a night of celebration in Snow Province's largest city, Vicente woke up early as he and Lauren left the local blacksmith association building.

After saying goodbye to Lina and Layla and wishing the local leaders good luck, Vicente and his sister made their way to Scott Province, about two days away.

Metal City was close to the border between Scott Province and Snow Province, so just a few hours after leaving that city, the two 5th stage siblings would see the border between these two areas of the Seidel Kingdom.

Seeing the border area with several watchtowers and tracks, Vicente and Lauren soon found the Metal City in the woods of that part of Scott Province.

'Seeing' the Metal City where Nina was supposed to be, Lauren clenched her fists, back in the area after some 18 months since she had last been there.

Back then, she had been to Martell Village, home of the Fuller family, and had felt many strange emotions. But seeing Nina's new home and thinking of the little girl from Vicente's memories, she couldn't help but feel her heart beat faster.

Her mouth went dry while she showed Vicente a more agitated demeanor than usual.

Vicente ignored the way Lauren repeatedly tidied her hair and clothes before he slowed his flight speed and altitude.

"Don't be a cold snake with Nina, Lauren. Even if you felt nothing for her right now, try not to hurt her. Even though Nina is an adult, she's a sentimental girl." Vicente said just that before the two of them landed in front of the main entrance of Metal City.

Chapter 788 Sibling Reunion?

As soon as they arrived in Metal City, Vicente and Lauren attracted the attention of the men from the Fuller family—the most part of the guards around the entrance to the city.?",

Vicente made his way inside the city, seeing the place completely transformed after years since his departure. Back then, Metal City had only been a small town, with plenty of areas to develop.

But now the city was a huge urban agglomeration, with hundreds of thousands of inhabitants, lots of traffic on practically every street, buildings at the limit of their size, and much more.

The city seemed totally unaffected by the calamity, with many businesses and inhabitants moving along the sidewalks, carriages and beasts roaming the streets and avenues.

The people there also had strong magical auras and most of them dressed very well, a sign of the local economic opulence.

Whoever had arrived there first, whether they were poor or rich, had grown a lot financially in recent years and even the local workers had much better standards of living than the rich in other cities on the continent had at this time.

In short, Metal City had been an absolute success, a fortress against monsters that not only provided security for hundreds of thousands of its inhabitants but also provided security for the province.

If Scott Province was still standing and with several large cities resisting the monsters, it was because of the existence of Metal City! It had been providing the province with all the support it needed with its powerful and wealthy citizen and warriors since the beginning of the crisis!

As soon as Vicente felt Nina's aura, a wave of positive energy washed over him, causing him to break into a wide and exuberant smile.

"Nina has become a Low-level Mage. She has room left to add her third pentagram." He commented to Lauren.

Continuing to walk behind him, the girl with black hair chose to remain silent, although her heart couldn't help but quicken its pace.

Their journey led them to the Fuller estate, where they found Nina, Nova, and Eve gathered in the dining room.

Rory had given the order for Onyx to stand guard, and true to his command, Onyx was positioned above the Fuller family mansion, ensuring its safety.

The moment his master arrived, this creature swiftly made his way to Vicente's side, reducing his body size and perching on one of Vicente's shoulders.

Vicente smiled at Onyx as he touched the head of this bird, just before moving on to the interior of his mansion, with the men of the family in the surrounding area appearing in his path and bending their knees.

"Welcome back, head of the family!"

Vicente and Lauren passed the various Mages and Sovereigns of the family, men who had joined the family or grown their powers over the last 2.5 years.

Not only the most important members of the Fuller family had grown during Vicente's travels. Practically all the men in the family had improved their levels 2-3 times in that time, with some even reaching the beginning of the 4th stage.

Besides those old members who had become much stronger during this period, the family had recruited like never before, with numbers now four times higher than at the time Vicente had left for the pentagram hunt.

Vicente noticed this when he felt many auras he didn't know surrounding his house, but as soon as he entered the property, all he had in mind were the three women he most wanted to see again after many months of travel.

When he entered the large dining room where Eve, Nina and Nova were eating, Vicente observed the three of them for a moment, especially his younger sister, who seemed so mature after over two years without him seeing her.

The three of them stood up the moment they realized Vicente was there, with Nova longing to give her man a hug, but holding back to give Nina space first.

Nina ran without thinking in Vicente's direction, while she couldn't ignore the black-haired, icy-looking woman at her brother's side.

"Brother! You're finally back!" She said as she hugged Vicente, feeling her heart leap for joy in her chest as she looked at Lauren, a little nervous.

"It's good to finally be back. It's been a long and arduous journey, but now I'll be around for a long time." He massaged his little sister's back before turning his gaze to Lauren.

"Nina, you may have already recognized the person next to me. That's Lauren, our big sister." He gestured in Lauren's direction, while Nina let go of his body to look into her big sister's eyes.

Lauren wanted to say something, but before she could open her mouth, she felt Nina move against her, wrapping her arms around her body, before hugging her tightly.

"Big sister, you're finally back! I've missed you so much!" Nina's voice trembled with emotion as she recalled the last time she had seen her big sister, back when she was still a child.

Magicians had excellent memories, but normally one wouldn't remember their childhood so well. However, Nina's traumas made her remember practically everything she had experienced back then.

Lauren accepted Nina's embrace, while letting her hands rest on her shoulders, not knowing what to do.

The unexpected hug caught her off guard, leaving her momentarily breathless.

"That..." Lauren hesitated as she opened her mouth, strangely recognizing Nina's scent.

Closing her eyes, she moved one of her hands towards Nina's face, turning her face sideways as a subtle smile formed on her face.

Lauren didn't understand where this feeling came from, but unlike how she saw Vicente, she liked Nina almost instantly when she was hugged by this girl.

Feeling as if she should take this young woman in and protect her, Lauren felt a part of her being that she had never noticed before.

"I'm sorry." These words escaped her mouth, as she got a rough idea of what Nina really looked like today. "I'm not exactly the sister you lost, but count on me for anything. Unlike that guy next to us, I won't neglect you and let you get into trouble."

Chapter 789 Nina's Powers

After hearing Lauren's comment, Vicente looked at his older sister's face with interest, curious if she had said that to influence him or if she meant it.",

Nina moved away from her sister and watched Lauren signal what she had just said.

Lauren knew Nina was deaf, so she had learned sign language while traveling with Vicente in the more than a year she had been at his side.

"It looks like my big sister didn't lose everything she had. I'm happy about that." Nina hugged Lauren even tighter, making her older sister notice something she hadn't noticed before.

'Nina seems to have a much more mature body than mine... Why is that?'

Nina and Lauren were quite different in stature, with the older of the two having a slimmer, feminine body, but with no noticeable extremes. In the case of the youngest sister, her physique was very reminiscent of Kate's, with thick thighs, wide hips and big breasts.

Thinking of this, Lauren thought of what she had heard from Vicente, while her expression turned colder as she finally returned Nina's hug.

'I have to take care of this girl or soon some dirty brat will contaminate her.' Lauren thought as her face turned to Vicente.

'What do you want? Stop looking at me like that.' Vicente narrowed his eyes.

Considering his more advanced abilities, he understands transmissions if made through instruments or if one thought wildly while watching him.

Hearing Vicente's voice in her mind, Lauren revealed her thoughts to him. 'You are careless! Nina isn't even 17 yet, but I can smell a man's scent on her. Luckily, she's still pure, but you almost let her lose her virginity!'

Vicente imagined the man's scent was of Killian. He had already heard from the king about the relationship between the man's youngest son and Nina, as well as their planned engagement in a year.

He then ignored Lauren as he looked at Nova, his beautiful blue-haired woman.

As he approached her, he gave her a subtle kiss before hugging her tightly, smelling her sweet scent.

"I missed you."

"I missed you too. But the important thing is that we're together again." Nova said with a smile on her face, her teeth showing and dimples forming in her cheeks.

"It's good to see you too, Eve." He left Nova's body and greeted his old friend.

"It's been such a long journey... I hope you'll stay by our side for a while now that you're here. Things aren't easy." Eve told him, happy for his return, but with too many things on her mind not to think about the complicated future ahead.

"I know. Don't worry, it will take a while for me to distance myself again." He assured not only Eve but also Nina and Nova of his plans. "I won't be in Metal City every day, but from now on, I'll be in the kingdom for at least a few years."

"That's good enough." Nova sighed in relief until Vicente and Lauren joined the three of them at the table.

Someone soon served the two newcomers food, while Nina stood next to her sister, very curious.

Vicente asked Eve. "Where's Casey? I want him to come and transfer Nina's memories to Lauren."

"He's in Millfall. If you want me to send him a message, he can be here early tomorrow to see Lauren and Nina." Eve replied as she went back to eating her food.

"Do that for me. I want him to transmit Nina's memories to Lauren as soon as possible."

"What's the point of that, brother? By the way, what's Lauren's situation?" Nina asked with interest, her expression becoming more serious when talking about her big sister.

"Lauren won't fully regain her memories until she becomes an Archmage. But until that happens, we can try to make her remember, at least a little, who she was and what she's already experienced with us. That's what the memories that Casey will transfer to her will do."

Nina, Eve and Nova looked at Lauren while the woman, with a neutral expression on her face, turned to Vicente. But this time, she wouldn't make it difficult for herself to receive these memories.

"These memories won't help me much, but at least I can find out more about you, Nina. If that's what you want, of course." Lauren said in a reserved tone, while Vicente watched her with narrowed eyes.

But even though he was suspicious, there was no way Lauren could do anything against him or Nina, so he said nothing about the strangeness of Lauren's behavior.

"I'll do my best to help you, big sister. If it can make you remember, even if it's only 0.1%, that's good enough." Nina easily agreed.

"We'll do it tomorrow. For now, you can continue with your normal routine, Nina. By the way, I'm curious about your situation. I see that you recently reached the 3rd stage and haven't added your next magic essence yet," Vicente said, interested to see how his sister's powers had developed.

"Yes, I recently advanced. Rory told me I'd better wait for you before I go hunting for my next pentagram." She stood and moved away from the table before activating her mana through her cyan Magic Gem, causing two pentagrams to emerge from her body.

One was red, and the other was orange, the ideal configuration for mainland magicians newly promoted to the 3rd stage.

Nina's power was like Vicente's first magical form—it didn't have a specific shape, like a weapon, different from Lauren's Book of Death. The moment the youngest Fuller activated her powers, there was only a strange sensation in the air as her pentagrams spun.

Lauren frowned when she felt it, understanding that Nina's power was related to the draining of the life force.

Vicente already knew Nina's first power. It had to do with draining life force and using the vitality of opponents to strengthen the user of the ability. It could make her regenerate faster from injuries, be faster, stronger, and more agile.

Nina's second ability gave her the ability to control spirits, such as fairies, ghosts, and so on. With it, she could take command of spirit-type creatures and force them to become her minions, obeying her every command.

By using her two abilities together, Nina could also strengthen her minions and make them reach an even stronger level while using her two abilities together!

Chapter 790 Wedding Time!

After watching Nina show off her powers and explaining what she could do, Vicente and Lauren were pleased with the young woman's growth.",

"Your abilities are highly impressive. You're only a Low-level Mage, but on the battlefield, you can fight like a Mid-level Mage, and maybe you can even get High-level Mages under your control.

Your overall combat power should be pretty close to the level of an Earth Sovereign, although there's still a noticeable difference for you to reach that level." Lauren analyzed Nina's power, sensing her little sister had attained a power even purer than her own.

Nina's purity of darkness was almost at the same level as Vicente's!

But Vicente had a clear advantage over Nina, both because of his first magical form and the fact that his first Throne of Darkness' pentagram was already green.

Nina would probably only get something like that when she became an Archmage!

But Vicente still didn't have most of his pentagrams from his second magical form, and he was only a Low-level Paragon and already had this condition.

Vicente said to Nina. "You have a good second pentagram. I'll help you find your third essence in the next few days. Unfortunately, your magical foundation isn't strong enough for you to absorb a green pentagram, otherwise I could give you this.

Vicente pointed to the necklace with the special crystal Prische had given him earlier, which contained the green pentagram he had collected during his expedition to the north.

As they felt Vicente release some of the aura from the thing, Lauren and Nina understood what he had with him.

"A naturally formed green pentagram?" Lauren clenched her fists as she looked at it, while Nina felt eager to become a Sovereign and be able to absorb it.

Lauren didn't covet what would become of her younger sister. This magical essence was no match for her. Still, she couldn't help but marvel at Vicente's luck in obtaining good essences.

Vicente nodded, while Eve and Nova watched the necklace with anticipation, wondering how strong Nina would become when she reached the fourth stage and absorbed a new power.

Naturally formed pentagrams could not only grow with their bearer, they could also synchronize with other pentagrams formed in the same way, accelerating the development of all of them.

If Nina absorbed this green pentagram, it was possible her first magical essence would strengthen to the yellow grade!

This would give her two new vitality-stealing powers!

Considering how fast Nina was cultivating, Nova imagined this would happen in a little over two years, when the young girl would be around 19 years old.

The girl smiled with joy as she thought about what it would be like to have four pentagrams, and couldn't help but thank Vicente for the gift.

With that settled, Vicente, Lauren, and the other three women spent the next hour talking about things that had happened during his trip.

The women who stayed behind in the Seidel Kingdom had little to say to Vicente. Nothing very important had happened during the group's hunting trip to the north of the continent, and they spent most of their time in Grandis dealing with the issues of preparing for the worst.

Vicente did most of the talking, telling them about some of the major dangers his group had encountered, how their hunt in the north had gone, Lauren's rescue, and, most importantly, about his second magical essence.

When he said he would return to the North in a few years to hunt pentagrams, he had to explain where he would put the pentagrams he would hunt, since he already had five essences in his first magical form.

The three women understood the reality of Vicente's powers well, with Nina more or less understanding why she and Lauren had generated Dark Path powers, even though their families didn't have any magicians on that path.

Vicente also talked about the Cataclysm Order, his plans for that force, and the things he had done to help the forces of the central region prevent the arrival of the most powerful monsters in the south of the continent.

At the end of the conversation, Vicente and Nova left together to have some time alone, while Lauren left the mansion with Nina, curious to get to know the city and Killian in particular.

Eve turned her attention to the family business, overjoyed at the reunion of the Fuller siblings.

...

Later that day, Vicente and Nova lay on an enormous bed, both covered by a blanket as they embraced each other, completely naked.

They had spent the last three hours missing each other in this room, where they were now relaxing and talking.

"How is your family?" Vicente asked Nova, remembering something he had promised her earlier.

"My family is fine. I managed to get them to move here before the worst of the crisis hit. Now they have a new business in the city.

Myra is behind the family business, while Max has joined your army. He's a Mid-level Mage now, while my older sister is a High-level Mage. They've grown up a lot with the help of the Fuller family.

As for my parents, their magical powers haven't grown as much. They are no longer at the best point in their journey to increase their strength. But it's possible that they will become Mages soon."

Nova was the most talented in her family, which was why there was such a big difference between her, her siblings, and her parents.

"I see... I'm happy for them. But since they're in the city, it will be easier for us to have our wedding," Vicente said as he looked into Nova's blue eyes.

"Uh? Wedding?" She looked at him for a moment, taking her time to process the information.

But when she saw him nod his head in the affirmative, she realized she hadn't misunderstood and he really meant what he said.

"Yes, yes, we are going to get married, just like I said." He confirmed what she had in mind, making her shed tears of joy as she felt a sudden surge of energy in her body.

Nova kissed him again without realizing it, cheering up "little" Vicente again.